

South Carolina, and our Nation. On December 3, 1942, Murdic reported to the United States Army and served in the 94th Division during World War II throughout the European Theatre. After his tour of duty, he returned to Elgin where he began working in textiles and became the owner of a mercantile business and a used car business. Beulah worked with the Citizens and Southern National Bank in Elgin, South Carolina, and retired from the bank after 40 years of dedicated service.

Murdic and Beulah have remained active and devoted members of the Highway Pentecostal Holiness Church in Elgin, South Carolina, and continue to remain a steadfast example of devotion, patience, and understanding to their three daughters, six grandchildren, and ten great-grandchildren. I would like to congratulate Murdic and Beulah Bowen on this momentous occasion and offer my best wishes to them and their family in the future.

#### THE AFFORDABLE CARE ACT

#### HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, June 18, 2012*

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, millions of Americans are anxiously awaiting the Supreme Court's ruling on the constitutionality of the Affordable Care Act. Many of these individuals await this decision in fear, as they stand to lose their sense of security if the law is struck down. Since the Affordable Care Act was signed into law on March 23, 2010, millions of Americans have already benefited from its sweeping reforms, and millions more stand to benefit once the law is fully implemented in 2014. Texas has the highest percentage of adults without health insurance, and striking down the Affordable Care Act will only worsen this predicament for Texans.

If the Supreme Court strikes down the Affordable Care Act, there will be no winners. The Affordable Care Act forces insurance companies to play by the rules, giving Americans greater control over their own health care. Under the health care law, insurance companies are required to publicly justify their actions if they chose to raise rates by 10 percent or more, and can no longer impose lifetime dollar limits on health benefits. In a major show of support, several insurance companies, including UnitedHealthcare and Aetna, have even pledged to preserve certain provisions of the health care law no matter what the Supreme Court decides.

A repeal of the Affordable Care Act would further exacerbate health disparities between minorities and non-minorities. Minorities suffer disproportionately from serious illnesses such as cancer, diabetes, and HIV/AIDS. Historically, minorities have faced considerable barriers to accessing affordable health insurance, and these barriers have contributed to significant health disparities. Under the Affordable Care Act, an estimated 3.8 million African Americans and roughly 5.4 million Latinos who would otherwise be uninsured will gain coverage by 2016. If the Affordable Care Act is struck down, millions of minorities will be forced to seek primary care in our Nation's overcrowded emergency rooms, and the costs of care will be shifted to taxpayers.

Mr. Speaker, while the Republicans have introduced numerous measures to undermine and repeal the Affordable Care Act, they have not yet offered one piece of legislation which would reduce health care costs for young adults and seniors or address the growing health disparities between minorities and non-minorities. As we await this monumental court decision, I, along with my Democratic colleagues, will continue to advocate for access to affordable, quality health care for all Americans.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE WHITEVILLE HIGH SCHOOL BASEBALL TEAM BEING NAMED NORTH CAROLINA 2-A STATE CHAMPIONS

#### HON. MIKE MCINTYRE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, June 18, 2012*

Mr. MCINTYRE. Mr. Speaker, it is my great pleasure to rise today to ask you to join me in recognizing the Whiteville High School baseball team of Whiteville, North Carolina, on being named North Carolina 2-A State Champions.

The Whiteville Wolfpack finished their season strong with a 16-game winning streak for a record of 26–5, including the championship game win over the 2011 returning State Champions. The Whiteville team also received the honors for All-Cape Fear region baseball coach of the year, Brett Harwood, and player of the year, Nathan Hood.

As founder of the Congressional Caucus on Youth Sports, a long-time little league coach and one who grew up playing baseball, I appreciate the dedication, determination, and teamwork that earned these players the esteemed title of State Champions. I am also impressed by Coach Brett Harwood who led this team to victory, as well as the parents of each player and the Whiteville community as a whole for supporting these young baseball players as they worked to achieve their dream.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the Whiteville High School baseball team, and wishing them the very best in all of their future endeavors.